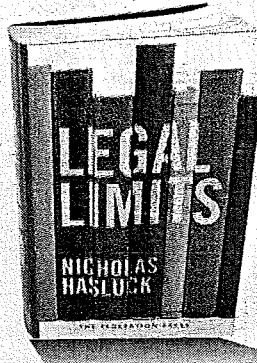


SYDNEY MORNING HERALD

25 JANUARY 2014

●● In short Non-fiction



**LEGAL LIMITS**  
Nicholas Hasluck  
The Federation Press, \$49.95

Unlike doctors, not many lawyers are also novelists - perhaps, among other things, because legal language aspires to precision and fiction thrives on ambiguity. Hasluck, a former lawyer who served on the Supreme Court of WA and is a respected novelist, combines both worlds, and in this very readable and erudite mix of analysis and memoir examines their similarities and differences - lawyers and novelists, for example, having to enter the minds of those they represent. The study incorporates Kafka, Foucault, C. P. Snow, Carey, Grenville and more, but also looks at the strategies of his own fiction, particularly in relation to his depiction of the Whitlam sacking in his novel *The Dismissal* - the belief that the novel must be impartial and the need to invent a character through whom we witness the legal and political upheaval of that time, which remains, to this day, a "dismissal" to some and a coup to others.